

One hundred years ago, a group of Chicago lawyers shared a vision of legal education. They believed that there existed "the need for a school where men and women compelled to earn their own livelihoods could get a legal education." That vision became a reality when the John Marshall Law School opened its doors in 1899 with three students.

Over the years, the John Marshall Law School has added to its vision of legal education, most notably through several innovations. It has expanded the curriculum to include cutting-edge programs and degrees; it has increased its students services to include legal and writing professionals skilled in training students for the practice of law; and it has improved the law school facilities to include a three-building campus with a moot courtroom complex, a computer classroom, lecture halls and a modern conference center.

As the John Marshall Law School has succeeded through a century of opportunity and innovation, its alumni have reaped a legacy of achievement. Their success are a tribute to the John Marshall Law School . . . A Legacy of Opportunity, A Lifetime of Achievement.

LT. GERALD D. WHEATON TO
RECEIVE THE BRONZE STAR

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 26th, I plan to be present—votes permitting—for a long overdue ceremony in Ripon, Wisconsin, for a true American hero.

It was December 15, 1967. Most Americans were getting ready for Christmas. But 1st Lieutenant Gerald D. Wheaton's artillery battalion had just taken over a position near Chu Chi in South Vietnam previously assigned to another battalion. Wheaton was the Battalion Ammunition Officer, and he knew he had a job on his hands when he found that his predecessor had left him with broken boxes, mixed lots, and in some cases missing charges. So he got to work—a time consuming and exacting job. The battalion had no ammunition trucks, so he had to beg and borrow vehicles for resupply.

Six weeks later, the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong violated a ceasefire in order to launch their mammoth surprise Tet offensive throughout the Republic of Vietnam. The first days of the offensive were chaotic. Wheaton's brigade was given the mission to keep the main supply route open from Quang Tri Province to Camp Evans about 30 miles away. A North Vietnamese regiment attacked the garrison at Hi Lang and cut the supply road to Camp Evans.

Lt. Col. Robert E. Lee, Jr. (then a Major) says:

I ordered Lt. Wheaton to move his ammunition section from Phu Bi to Quang Tri City and be prepared to resupply C Battery in the vicinity of Quang Tri City, a battery in the vicinity of Hi Lang and a 155 battery at LZ Jane. The batteries were approximately thirty miles apart. Lt. Wheaton loaded his section on two helicopters. At the time, we were not aware of the magnitude of the Tet offensive. The helicopters came under heavy ground fire and one turned back. Lt. Wheaton insisted his helicopter continue the mis-

sion. Lt. Wheaton's decision ensured his battalion was resupplied with ammunition.

Keeping his own battalion and a reinforcing artillery battery resupplied was a monumental challenge which Lt. Wheaton met despite great personal risk from land mines, sniper fire and ambush. Indeed, later Lt. Wheaton was seriously injured when his jeep drove over a land mine. His passenger was killed.

As a result of his efforts before and during the Tet offensive, Col. Lee believes that Lt. Wheaton's actions saved the lives of many American soldiers, so he recommended Lt. Wheaton for a Bronze Star.

But then, nothing happened. During the hectic days following the offensive the original recommendation was somehow misplaced.

During a reunion, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Lee learned that Lt. Wheaton had failed to receive the recognition he was due. So in July of last year Col. Lee contacted my office to see if we could right a wrong and help with a resubmission of the recommendations for Lt. Wheaton's awards. I was happy to help. The Army requires extensive procedures to make sure the awards it makes are merited, but over the course of a year we were able to demonstrate our case.

On Saturday, September 26 at 11 a.m. at the Ripon, Wisconsin VFW I plan to be on hand to offer my personal gratitude to Gerald Wheaton. We will be joined by Col. Lee and by Wheaton's former Battalion Commander, Col. (Ret.) William Malouche as Gerald D. Wheaton receives the Bronze Star for meritorious service, and the Bronze Star with a "V" Device for valor. I believe Lt. Wheaton deserves the full measure of recognition and congratulations that can be extended by this House on behalf of a grateful nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained in my district and as a result missed rollcall votes Nos. 447, 448, and 449.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 447, "no" on rollcall vote No. 448, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 449.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WALLACE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Wallace on his being honored as the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Humanitarian of the Year. Mr. Wallace has distinguished himself as a dedicated member of the community and is a highly regarded member of the media.

John Wallace grew up in San Rafael, California and went on to accomplish great things for himself and his community. A graduate of the University of Arizona, the College of Marin and the Borden School of Radio, John served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve

before coming to the Central Valley and KYNO Radio. Currently the host of "47 This Morning" on KJEO-TV, John's Career has spanned 31 years and 15,000 broadcasts ranging from famine in Ethiopia to the Gulf War live from the Middle East. He and his wife Cheri have 5 children: Taylor, Carson, Cameron, Paige and Cassandra.

Dedicated to excellence in journalism and with a strong devotion to his family, John finds the time to serve his community in numerous capacities. He currently is in his sixth term as President of the Foundation for Clovis Schools. Additionally, John is a board member of West Care Inc., the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Chairman of "Journey into Sherwood," a Valley Children's Hospital benefit. In the past, Mr. Wallace had the honor of serving as President of the California Raisin Bowl, President of the Fresno State "Time Out Club," and as a member of the Fresno Police Activities League.

John Wallace is no stranger to honor, as he is continually receiving recognition for his outstanding dedication to community service. He was voted Leadership Fresno's "Alumnus of the Year" in 1989, in 1993 John was voted "Clovis Citizen of the Year," and in 1996 received the Volunteer Bureau's "Angel Award." John Wallace has proven himself a distinguished community leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to John Wallace for his selection as the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Humanitarian of the year. His service to the people of the community is unsurpassed and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing John Wallace many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1998 RETIREES OF THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIRE FIGHTERS UNION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday September 25, the Sterling Heights Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual Dinner-Dance honoring their 1998 retirees.

It is my distinct privilege to recognize the five retiring firefighters for their outstanding contributions to humanity. Fire Marshall Frederick B. Cowper's important contributions to his community include implementing educational and prevention programs for camps and local school districts. Battalion Chief Anthony Maltese has spent his career raising public awareness and providing courage and expertise in emergency situations. Captain James L. Tworck has received recognition for his compassion, professionalism, and knowledge while performing his duties. Finally, Captain Michael J. Rudolph has taken on a variety of responsibilities throughout his career and received the Department Award of Valor in 1983.

These gentlemen have demonstrated acts of heroism and have performed above and beyond the call of duty. Indeed, the people of Sterling Heights have been well-served by their untiring care and concern.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing these gentlemen for their dedication, accomplishments and years of service.

I wish them good health and happiness as they move forward in their lives.

DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 18, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3248) to provide Dollars to the Classroom:

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Madam Chairman, we have been charged by our constituents to construct and introduce wise legislation, yet today we are considering legislation which will severely hamper our Nation's efforts to improve our children's education. The Dollars to the Classroom Act is riddled with faults, such as providing no mechanism for accountability of Federal funds as well as funding general operating expenses rather than national educational priorities.

One of the major setbacks of this legislation is that it does not ensure that Federal education funds will reach our neediest students. The discretion will be left to the States, which in general have resulted in less targeted fund distribution when compared to Federal programs. In addition, past experience has proven that the consolidation of Federal programs into block grants has resulted in decreased appropriations for varied reasons, such as the lack of distinct Federal priorities and the lack of accountability language.

I am a parent and educator and I know that certain improvements can be made with our American educational system; but H.R. 3248 is not one of these improvements. If education is one of our top priorities in Congress, then we should not pass H.R. 3248. I urge my colleagues to vote no on this legislation.

ESTABLISH YOUTH SUICIDE AS A COMPELLING NATIONAL PRIORITY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for a resolution I introduced last week that is of fundamental importance to every person who has ever had children and to every family that has suffered the loss of a loved one through suicide.

During this summer, while I was home in my district, I had the opportunity to meet my constituent Lisa Dove, the mother of Justin Dove who tragically committed suicide at age 16. Justin was a well liked child who lived with clinical depression and Attention Deficit Disorder. Despite several years of medical psychological treatments and antidepressant medications, Justin decided to take his own life.

The purpose of this bill would be to recognize the week of September 20–26, 1998, as Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week. This bill would also recognize that there is a need to increase aware-

ness about youth suicide and make it a national priority. Finally, this legislation also encourages communities nationwide to increase awareness about and prevent youth suicide.

I would like to thank my original co-sponsor of this bill, the Honorable David Skaggs of Colorado. I would also like to recognize the Light For Life Foundation of America and their founders, the Emme family, who tragically lost their teenage son, Michael to suicide in 1994. It was through the vision of the Emme family that the Yellow Ribbon Program, which is now responsible for saving over 1,000 teenage lives since its inception, has become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this resolution will increase awareness and help reduce the number of teenage suicides.

THE VETERANS PERSONAL SECURITY ACT

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans Personal Security Act. This bill is the direct result of several incidents at the Lyons VA Medical Center in my district.

In late May, a Korean War Veteran who was a psychiatric patient at Lyons walked away from his ward, unnoticed. Several hours later, when he was discovered missing, the VA police began to search the medical center's extensive campus. That search, however, was called off, allegedly because the VA could not pay police overtime to continue. Two days later, the patient was found dead in a ditch adjacent to the main administration building. This veteran's death, and the lack of a proper search, is an atrocity.

In that incident, the VA did notify the local Bernards Township Police Department, but a coordinated search was not requested. I also understand that Lyons VA medical center has had a series of alleged rapes reportedly occur on its campus. These incidents have not been reported to local law enforcement agencies, and as a result, rumors have been circulating among veterans, as well as the local community, about what has actually happened at the medical center. Is there a threat to the safety and security of the community at large? One local police chief said that knowing the facts of these incidents will help him answer questions posed by his community, and hopefully help him ease their concerns that these crimes will spread beyond the medical center's boundaries.

The Veterans Personal Security Act would require the VA police to immediately notify local law enforcement agencies if a serious crime or similar incident occurs. That notification must be followed up within 48 hours with a more detailed, written notification. The VA would be required to notify local police if one of several crimes or alleged incidents occurs, including: a missing patient, the abuse or beating of a patient or staff member, the use or distribution of illegal drugs by a patient or staff member or an alleged rape or any other felony.

Additionally, the Veterans Personal Security Act would grant local law enforcement agencies jurisdiction to go onto VA property to in-

vestigate these crimes, or to help VA police search for missing persons, or provide whatever assistance is needed to resolve these incidents.

I recognize that many local law enforcement agencies are kept busy meeting the demands of their communities. However, it is oftentimes in the local communities' best interests that these situations are brought to their attention and that the police are made aware of them. The veterans who are treated at these facilities, the staff who work there, and the residents in the surrounding communities deserve to know when a crime or other alleged incident occurs. More importantly, they deserve to be protected. Their safety and security must not be compromised by weak links in communication between VA police and the local law enforcement officials.

Mr. Speaker, a veteran should not just "disappear" from a VA medical center, like the tragic incident at Lyons. When a veteran checks into a VA hospital anywhere in America, he or she expects and deserves peace of mind. The Veterans Personal Security Act should ensure that veterans seeking treatment at VA medical facilities will be protected from further harm.

SISTERLY LOVE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, as all of us know, family is the center of American life and I want to share with my colleagues an article which exemplifies the strong family ties found among our healthiest and happiest of families. The article was written by Courtney Toft about her sister, Nicole, who has Rett syndrome. The affection and devotion with which she writes permeates each word and demonstrates the unconditional love both girls have for one another. The close relationship between Courtney and Nicole is a direct reflection of the family life created by their mother, Carol Toft, who works in my District Office in Lake Villa, Illinois. Knowing of Carol's commitment and love for her family, my heart was touched by Courtney's comments about her sister and I simply wanted my colleagues to have an opportunity to read her article as it appeared in the September 1998 issue of the Rett Syndrome Association of Illinois Newsletter.

SISTERHOOD

(By Courtney Toft (age 16))

My sister, Nicole, turned nineteen on August 3. Her personality has changed throughout the years, but she has always kept the sparkling eyes and the smile that lights up the room. People always say, "I think she understands!" I know she understands! She knows so much more than we give her credit for. She is just like every single one of us except she can't express her feelings in words like the rest of us can. Having a sister with Rett syndrome has taught me so much. If Nicole had been "normal" our family would have had a different outlook on life.

Nicole has always been there for me. She listens to my deepest secrets and doesn't tell a soul. She laughs at all my jokes even if they are not funny and basically puts up with all my annoying habits. Of course, Nicole has her bad habits that the rest of the